

Testimony Concerning House Bill 5361
The Insurance and Real Estate Committee, 2/10/2015
Meghan Philips

I would like to thank the The Insurance and Real Estate Committee for the opportunity to express my support of House Bill 5361] regarding ending breed restrictions.

As a devoted animal lover and someone who has volunteered with animals for years, this is an issue that I am particularly passionate about. I have volunteered at the Connecticut Humane Society as a dog walker and have years of direct experience with countless breeds of dogs. The continual (and wrongful) discrimination that I see toward pitbulls and other "potentially dangerous" breeds continues to boggle my mind.

- As the owner of an American Bulldog mix, I believe my dog falls into the "banned breed" category. Dot is the most loving, loyal dog. Where people look at her big head and expect that she will bite, instead she gently leans up and kisses their child on the face as they sit in their stroller. She is more human than she is dog, and loves every human that she meets. The fact that she is deemed uninsurable borders on insulting. She would go to the end of the Earth for us.

During my time as a volunteer, I have seen dogs that could potentially be called "vicious". These dogs have often been abused, are scared, and are untrusting because of whatever life they were forced to live from birth. All they need is time and a second chance. There are no "bad dogs", there are only bad PEOPLE. These bad people are drawn to particular breed dogs, and it is usually for something unsavory. It is these people and the lives they force these breeds to live that create stereotypes. I have watched the most loving pitbull that sleeps in my lap after I walk her sit in a kennel for a month because of stereotypes and home insurance issues.

The concept of breed restrictions needs to end. The number of dogs being euthanized due to stereotypes needs to stop. More effort needs to be put into changing the lives of these dogs for the better than punishing them. Please pass this Bill. In doing so you will change many animals lives for the better and end incorrect perceptions that have been around for far too long.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Meghan Philips
West Hartford